WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the following structure:

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 N
 N
 Y
 Ar
 Het

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, solvate, stereoisomer, or prodrug thereof, wherein:

"---" represents the second bond of an optional double bond:

R₁ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, -NH₂, or halogen;

 R_2 is $-NR_7R_8$ or $-OR_{10}$;

R₃ is null, hydrogen, or alkyl;

Y is $=(CR_4)$ - or -(C=0)-:

R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, thioalkyl, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl;

Ar is phenyl, phenyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_5 , pyridyl, or pyridyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_5 ;

R₅ at each occurrence is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, halogen, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl;

Het is heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R₆;

 R_6 at each occurrence is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, halogen, -C(O)OR₁₁, or hydroxy;

R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl;

R₈ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl; or

 R_7 and R_8 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocycle which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 R_9 ;

 R_9 at each occurrence is hydroxy, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, $-CH_2-OC(O)R_{13}$, $-C(O)OR_{11}$, $-C(O)NR_{11}R_{12}$, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, alkoxyalkyl, or substituted alkoxyalkyl;

R₁₀ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, or substituted aryloxyalkyl;

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are the same or different and independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylakyl, or substituted arylakyl; and

R₁₃ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy.

- 2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl.
 - 3. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is -NR₇R₈.
- 4. The compound of claim 3 wherein R_7 and R_8 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycle substituted by 1 R_9 .
- 5. The compound of claim 4 where R₉ is hydroxy, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkyl, substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, alkoxyalkyl, or substituted alkoxyalkyl.
 - 6. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_3 is null.
 - 7. The compound of claim 6 wherein Y is $=(CR_4)$ -.
- 8. The compound of claim 7 wherein R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl.
 - 9. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_3 is hydrogen or alkyl.
 - 10. The compound of claim 9 wherein Y is -(C=O)-.
 - 11. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is substituted by 1 R₅.

12. The compound of claim 11 wherein R_5 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, or halogen.

- 13. The compound of claim 1 wherein Het is substituted by 1 R₆.
- 14. The compound of claim 13 wherein R₆ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, or halogen.
 - 15. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is $-OR_{10}$.
 - 16. The compound of claim 3 wherein Y is $=(CR_4)$ -.
 - 17. The compound of claim 16 wherein R₅ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, or substituted alkoxy.
- 18. The compound of claim 17 wherein R₈ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl.
- 19. The compound of claim 18 wherein R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, or alkoxyalkyl.
- 20. A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 21. A method for treating a disorder manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a mammal comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20.
 - 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is stroke.
 - 23. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is depression.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is obsessive-compulsive disorder.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is irritable bowel syndrome.